

WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK



H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

July 8, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

Rhode Island: 172 confirmed positive cases, 58 hospitalized to date, 2 deaths
National Report: 53 states (including DC, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands) with 33,902 confirmed and probable cases, 170 deaths
International Report: 94,512 cases, 429 deaths

The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) announced yesterday (July 7) the second death in Rhode Island that is linked to H1N1 virus. The person, an adult woman from Providence County, had underlying medical conditions that increased her risk for serious complications from influenza. While most cases in the state have been mild, certain medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease, diabetes, immunosuppression, pregnancy or any other special healthcare needs, can increase the risk of complications.

Situation in New England

Connecticut: 1,247 confirmed cases, 53 hospitalizations and 6 deaths

Maine: 141 confirmed cases and 7 hospitalizations

Massachusetts: 1,308 confirmed cases, 143 hospitalizations and 4 deaths

New Hampshire: 232 confirmed cases and 19 hospitalizations

Vermont: 49 confirmed cases and 1 hospitalization

There have been reported outbreak clusters of H1N1 at summer camps in New Hampshire and Maine. If you or a family member is planning on attending, visiting, or working at a summer camp in Rhode Island, please read our summer camp advisory on the HEALTH website:

<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/CampGuidance062309Revised.pdf>

Situation in the Southern Hemisphere

The Southern Hemisphere is in its "regular" influenza season. This flu season will end when the northern hemisphere begins its "regular" flu season in September. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and HEALTH are monitoring how the pandemic behaves in the southern hemisphere, as the experience there may provide valuable information for planning efforts in the northern hemisphere.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports confirmed cases of H1N1 in 22 Southern Hemisphere countries. (There are 18,989 confirmed cases and 95 deaths in the Southern Hemisphere.) Some countries are overwhelmed by this pandemic because they were not adequately prepared to respond. Five provinces in Argentina have declared health emergencies, and Brazil has advised its citizens to delay travel to Argentina or Chile. Currently, Argentina ranks third in the world for total number of deaths from H1N1, and Chile ranks fifth in the world for total number of confirmed cases of H1N1.

As a reminder, HEALTH's response to the pandemic will continue through the summer and fall. In the coming weeks, HEALTH's focus will also include planning for vaccination efforts in the fall. Vaccines are one of the most effective prevention strategies to fight disease. Future partner briefings will highlight some of the priority planning areas and information about the vaccination effort.

For further information go to:

HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>; H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022

CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

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